

***Intro:***

Main Point of Text: Peter calls Christians not to be overwhelmed by surprising sufferings, but to learn, grow, and rejoice through the special fellowship with Jesus Christ that only these difficult providences can afford you.

Sermon Point: *Suffer through to Rejoice Anew.*

***Move 1: The sufferings which you find surprising God has planned for you.***

Vs. 12a, c. Many providences are very difficult.

- “fiery trial”: lit., “burning ordeal.” Rom. 8:28: all works toward good, but much is evil.
- “think it not strange”, lit. “be not bewildered/startled/surprised.” Each suffering God has scheduled.
- But they improve you ability to live. Phil 4:11-13. And strengthen you while waiting: Ps. 27:14.

***Move 2: God lets you suffer for your own good.***

Vs. 12b: “which is to try you”. Test/improve. 1 Pet. 5:6. *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.* (James 1:2-4) You can always use more patience, thus more trials. 1 Pet. 1:6-7. More patience leads to more testifying. And more praise.

***Move 3: Your sufferings will bring you surprising fellowship with Jesus.***

Vs. 13b: you identity w/ Christ in sufferings. Phil. 3:8-11. Paul wrote this letter (among others) in prison, where he especially learned to appreciate Gethsemane/Golgotha. Rev. 1:9: Sharing in Christ’s sufferings together makes you a band of brothers.

***Move 4: Because of your sufferings with Jesus, you will more greatly enjoy His Glory.***

Vs. 13a-c: “rejoice”. Like Jesus, your crosses lead to crowns. Heb. 12:1-2. Your earthly sorrows remind you to hope in heaven, where your lives are already hid! Acts 20:24. Phil. 3:1; 4:4. Rom. 8:16-19.

***Conclusion:***

*Suffer through to Rejoice Anew.*